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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, June 11, 2003

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## **Livingston County Ignored By MDOT**

*Livingston County lawmakers want citizens to be heard*

LANSING – Expressing their concern that Michigan’s fastest-growing county is being ignored, three Livingston County lawmakers sent a letter today to Michigan Department of Transportation Director Gloria Jeff, urging her to bring her “listening” tour to their citizens.

“Why doesn’t the director of the state’s transportation system give our constituents a voice in the decisions being made by MDOT?” said Sen. Valde Garcia. “First we’re snubbed when our projects are ‘temporarily’ postponed and now she doesn’t even want to hear our input on how Livingston County’s road tax dollars should be spent.”

The department has scheduled a statewide tour in which officials will hold hearings with citizens to get their input and opinions about the road and infrastructure plans MDOT is pushing. None of the proposed meetings, though, is in Livingston County.

In the letter, the lawmakers raise Jeff’s remarks, which she made during her confirmation hearing, about inclusiveness, pointing out that the exclusion of Livingston County is an oversight that needs to be corrected.

“I will continue to keep the pressure on MDOT for Livingston County.” said State Rep. Joe Hune. “It’s imperative that our road projects be included in the five year plan, and that our voices be heard.”

State Rep. Chris Ward added, “Livingston County residents have many concerns regarding the safety and congestion problems that will be increased by further delays in previously scheduled projects.”

The letter also asked that Jeff accord prompt attention to the lawmakers’ concern. The tour is set to begin today in Traverse City.